

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 and 21 are pending. Claim 1 is amended hereby. A marked-up version showing the changes to claim 1 made by the present amendment is attached hereto as **“VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.”**

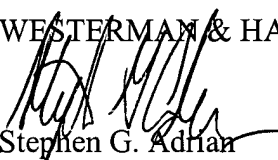
Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the difference between a trench and a hole.

Prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

  
Stephen G. Adrian  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 32,878

Attachments: Version with markings to show changes made  
Petition for Extension of Time

Atty. Docket No. **990559**  
1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: (202) 659-2930  
Fax: (202) 887-0357  
SGA/arf